

# MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING OF THE BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

Thursday, August 25, 2016  
450 Child Street, Boardroom, Warren, RI

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Pursuant to proper notice, the Board Meeting of the Bristol County Water Authority was called to order by Chairman Klepper at 6:00 pm, 450 Child Street, Boardroom, Warren, Rhode Island.

Executive Director Pamela Marchand, Legal Counsel Joseph Keough and the following Directors were in attendance at the commencement of the meeting:

Paul Bishop, George Champlin, William Gosselin, Joel Hellmann, John Jannitto, Allan Klepper, Georgina Macdonald, Raymond Palmieri, Sr., Frank Sylvia

Directors Absent: None

## 1. Public Input

Chairman Klepper stated that this was not a public hearing. Anyone wishing to speak can do so now, during public input; public discussion will not be permitted during the meeting.

The Chair recognized Brian Mellor, Warren RI, who asked the Board to put off approving the bid for new meters until a full investigation is done to see if BCWA actually needs new meters.

The Chair recognized Peter Hewitt, Bristol RI – discussion at a Bristol Town Council meeting on 8/24 involving East Providence's Emergency Connection with BCWA. Has this connection been built? Also, does the State have the \$7 million allocated for BCWA's construction of a new Shad Pipeline?

Chairman Klepper stated that the State never went out to Bond on the \$7 million, and now decided that too much time had elapsed and the money is no longer available to BCWA. The State also told us last year that there was an intention to change the legislation which still required BCWA to maintain dams and reservoirs in Mass; this also was not done. BCWA will be meeting again with the Director of Administration on these issues on 8/26/16.

The Chairman will send Mr. Hewitt additional information.

Executive Director P. Marchand stated that the emergency pump station connection from BCWA's pipeline to East Providence was constructed with the East Bay pipeline project. However, there is not an emergency connection large enough to supply water to BCWA from East Providence. BCWA will be constructing a connection to the East Providence 16" water main which will supply about 2 million gallons per day to BCWA in an emergency.

The Chair recognized Warren Town Council President, Joseph DePasquale – who questioned if it would be a priority to spend \$2.6 million on meters if they are not obsolete yet when BCWA is looking at a \$27 million project for a pipeline to Pawtucket? He asked who will pay for the pipeline project if the State funding is not available.

Chairman Klepper stated it is the responsibility of the Board to determine what is in the best interest of the Authority and its customers. The Board will be considering the feasibility of constructing the Phase 1 of the pipeline (to the East Providence tank) with or without the state or East Providence, in order to provide a back up to our pipeline under the Bay.

Chairman Klepper stated that the Board approved the design only for Phase I at a cost of \$100,000 and is in progress.

The Chair recognized Rick Lavey who stated concerns about the former pipeline on the Barrington Bridge.

## **2. Washington Trust Pension Fund Review**

Finance Manager M. Champagne introduced Gene McCabe and Joan Caine of Washington Trust.

Director Macdonald requested Directors should receive a copy of the report prior to the meeting.

G. McCabe – as of August 18, BCWA has \$5.1 million invested - 70% equity, 30% fixed income. Chairman Champlin had questions concerning the Plan's performance. Item to remain on the agenda.

## **3. Minutes**

Director Jannitto made the following motion seconded by Director Hellmann

**MOTION: To approve the minutes of the 7/21/16 Board Meeting.**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

## **4. Executive Directors Report**

Executive Director P. Marchand stated that BCWA is still working with National Grid concerning the gas pipe on Water Street in Warren. Metacom Avenue, Bristol project is nearing completion.

Director Sylvia stated Bristol Town Council is pleased with the work being done on Metacom Avenue. Also, concerning BCWA's meter project, the Council requested BCWA to hold off on approving meter bid until the Council discusses this issue with BCWA. The Council's concern is that the money could be better spent on the Pawtucket Pipeline project instead of replacing meters.

Director Macdonald requested a cost benefit analysis on the meter project; and further information on cloud vs. server based system.

## **5. Financial Report**

Finance Manager M. Champagne stated that Revenue is 4% over budget and Expenses are 11% under budget. Consumption is down 0.25% from last year; a rate increase has been approved for FY17 of 3.25%.

#### **6. Presentation: Water Meters and Automatic Meter Reading System Bid**

Executive Director P. Marchand began a PowerPoint presentation on the meter project and discussed the fact that local news articles and a letter sent to the Warren Town Council by the meter vendor that was not selected has led to some controversy regarding the project.

However, staff began this process over a year ago, hired a professional consultant experienced with meter projects, issued a Request for Qualifications, reviewed and interviewed 5 different companies, visited utilities with each meter system, and then issued a bid. Two companies responded, and were carefully reviewed.

The meter project has been part of the BCWA strategic plan and capital plan. The new meters will allow BCWA to collect more data for analysis and also allow us to go to monthly billing. The overall proposal is to replace all of our meters – with the first year to replace the 6,000 Trace meters that are failing.

Director Macdonald questioned our consultant's assumptions on cellular technology.

Executive Director P. Marchand stated that there are a number of issues with cellular use that will not benefit BCWA in the long run. BCWA will be using a radio system which is much more reliable and economical than cellular technology.

Director Macdonald stated that more facts are needed including a cost benefit analysis.

Director Palmieri questioned lead in the brass meters, the pros and cons of using the cloud technology system, much more information is needed. A Special Committee Meeting should be held before the next Board Meeting.

Director Macdonald stated that connecting to East Providence is more important than spending \$4 million on replacing meters.

Director Gosselin asked for cost analysis of BCWA employees installing the meters vs. a subcontractor.

Chairman Klepper stated that it would be better to hold a separate meeting with a single agenda item – meters. It will be held as a workshop, and all Board members are requested to send Cid questions they have on the meter project for the workshop.

#### **7. Bid: Installation of an Emergency Interconnection with the East Providence 16" Water Main**

Director Hellmann made the following motion seconded by Director Sylvia

**MOTION: To award D'Ambra Construction Company the project at a cost of \$353,382.00 and total amount not to exceed \$450,000.00.**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**8. Bid: Nayatt Rd. Pump Station Improvements**

Director Sylvia made the following motion seconded by Director Hellmann

**MOTION: To award Hart Engineering Corporation in the amount of \$406,000.00.**

Chairman Klepper asked Staff to design checklist form to compare items and prices. Draft form to be presented at the September meeting.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**9. Bid: Paving Contract**

Director Palmieri made the following motion seconded by Director Hellmann

**MOTION: To award Annual Paving Contract to JML Excavation of Bristol, RI at a cost of \$208,855.00 based on the estimated work to be performed.**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**10. RFP: Customer Payment Portal**

Director Macdonald made the following motion seconded by Director Hellmann

**MOTION: To award Customer Payment Portal to Webster Bank and to renegotiate bid if BCWA goes to a monthly billing cycle.**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**11. RFP Engineering Services**

Item moved to the September meeting.

**12. Task Order: Swansea Dam Removal**

Item moved to the September meeting.

**13. Quarterly Charge-Offs**

For information only.

**14. Strategic Plan – Discussion**

Item moved to the September meeting.

**15. Update on North Farm**

No news.

**16. Update on Warren Paving Ordinance**

No news.

**17. Next Scheduled Meeting**

September 29, 2016

## **18. Adjournment**

Director Hellmann made the following motion seconded by Director Jannitto

**MOTION: To adjourn the meeting.**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 pm.

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Raymond Palmieri, Sr.  
Secretary